

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02

PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 AID-05 BIB-01

IO-10 AGR-05 /090 W

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R 091530Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6858

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

INFO AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, ECIN, EINV, DM, NI, XY

SUBJ: GENERAL GOWON'S VISIT TO DAHOMEY

DEPT ALSO PASS EXIMBANK

REF A. COTONOU 12 B. LAGOS 134

1. SUMMARY: PRES YAKUBU GOWON OF NIGERIA PAID A TWO-DAY VISIT TO DAHOMEY JAN 7-8. THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE AT END OF VISIT STRESSED THE NEED FOR THE TWO COUNTRIES TO REINFORCE THEIR TIES BY (1) COMMON DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (2) MEASURES AIMED AT FACILITATING THE FREE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND (3) GREATER COOPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF ENERGY, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE. THE COMMUNIQUE DID NOT MENTION THE SUGAR COMPLEX AND CEMENT FACTORY (REFS) BUT GOWON SAID THE TWO PROJECTS WILL EXAMINED NEXT WEEK BY EXPERTS FROM THE TWO COUNTRIES.

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THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO NOTED THAT BOTH HEADS OF STATE WILL WORK

FOR A BILINGUAL WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY.

2. PRES YAKUBU GOWON OF NIGERIA PAID A TWO DAY VISIT TO DAHOMEY JAN 7-8 WHICH WAS AIMED, ACCORDING TO GOWON'S OWN WORDS, AT INTENSIFYING AND STRENGTHENING THE BILATERAL COOPERATION BETWEEN NIGERIA AND DAHOMEY.

3. ON BILATERAL COOPERATION THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE VISIT (A) NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THE EXCELLENT RELATIONS BETWEEN NIGERIA AND DAHOMEY (B) RECOGNIZED THE NEED TO REINFORCE THESE TIES BY CARRYING OUT JOINT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, PUTTING INTO OPERATION NEW MEASURES AIMED AT FACILITATING THE FREE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND BY GREATER COOPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF TRANSPORT, ENERGY, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE; (C) NOTED THE CHIEFS OF STATE ALSO DECIDED TO UPDATE THE COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT SIGNED IN 1971 AND TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF FACILITATING PAYMENTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. ACCORDINGLY A JOINT COMMISSION WILL MEET PERIODICALLY AND ALTERNATELY IN LAGOS AND COTONOU TO STUDY STATUS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

4. REGARDING REGIONAL COOPERATION, THE TWO CHIEFS OF STATE "RENEWED THEIR DETERMINATION TO WORK FOR THE CREATION OF A WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY WHICH TRANSCENDS THE LANGUAGE BARRIERS."

5. THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO CONTAINED EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT FOR THE UN AND OAU, THE RHODESIAN CEASE FIRE, THE PARTICIPATION OF OAU-RECOGNIZED SOUTHERN AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN UN ACTIVITIES, AND THE NEW ECONOMIC ORDER PROPOSED BY THE 6TH UNGA SPECIAL SESSION.

6. GENERAL GOWON INVITED PRES KEREKOU TO VISIT NIGERIA. THE INVITATION WAS ACCEPTED WITH THE DATE TO BE SET LATER.

7. THOUGH THE SUGAR COMPLEX AND THE CEMENT PLANT WERE NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED IN THE COMMUNIQUE, GOWON DID DEAL WITH THEM IN BOTH HIS SPEECH AT THE DINNER IN HIS HONOR ON JAN 7 AND IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE 8TH FOLLOWING ISSUANCE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE COMMUNIQUE. GOWON SAID THAT THEIR EXPERTS HAD ALREADY LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS SUCH AS THE CEMENT AND SUGAR FACTORIES. ON JAN 13 A MEETING OF THE EXPERTS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL BE HELD IN COTONOU TO DISCUSS THESE PROJECTS. HE ANNOUNCED THAT THEY BOTH WILL BEGIN THIS YEAR. THE NIGERIAN PRESIDENT ALSO SAID THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WILL COOPERATE IN THE AREAS OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS AS WELL AS OTHER SECTORS.

8. GOWON PUBLICLY COMPLIMENTED DAHOMEY FOR THE NEW REVOLUTIONARY SPIRIT EXHIBITED BY ITS PEOPLE AND WISHED THEM SUCCESS IN THEIR NEW COURSE, THOUGH HE DID NOT MENTION EITHER SOCIALISM OR MARXIST-LENINISM.

9. COMMENT: AT THE AIRPORT DEPARTURE, IN REPLY TO OUR QUESTION WHETHER THE NIGERIANS THOUGHT THE VISIT A SUCCESS, THE NIGERIAN AMB REPLIED, "I WOULD NOT CONSIDER IT A FAILURE." WE WOULD CONSIDER INCREASED NIGERIAN INVOLVEMENT IN DAHOMEY A POSITIVE COUNTERBALANCE TO THAT OF GUINEA AND OTHER RADICAL AFRICAN STATES. WE WILL OFFER FURTHER COMMENT AS SOON AS WE CAN BETTER ASCERTAIN THE RESULTS OF THE MEETINGS BETWEEN THE TWO DELS.  
ENGLE

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## Message Attributes

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